

Celtic mythology

1. Introduction

To the Celts, the gods weren't represented. The anthropomorphic representations of their gods, they appeared later with the Greek and the Roman at about the first and second century before J.-C. because of the numerous exchanges.

To the Celts, there aren't hierarchy like Greek or Roman mythology. Then a God could be the father of her mother and be older of your grandfather. Moreover, each Gods haven't a specific tasks.

During the conquest of the Gauls, the Roman tried to classify the Celt Gods like in their mythology. The Romans tried to place the Gods in the yoke (= carcan) of their Gods according to some outbuildings (= points communs) and that's why sometimes, we find names like God of the thunder (= tonnerre) in their books.

2. Mythology Celtic

2.1. Origins

Celts come from Germany of the South and the Bohemia. At about the 3-4 century before J.-C., they migrated to Spain, to Italia of North, to England, to Gaul and to Ireland. The Celt civilisation extended from the North Sea to the Caspian Sea and nevertheless (= pourtant) all the myths wich we know, come that of single people. That of Ireland.

2.2. Myths and their transmissions

At the Celts, there is a golden rule to be respected: the druidic Rule. It forbid to put down in the writing their teaching that is the theology and the metaphysical doctrine of the druids. The consequence to deprive us of its papers. As incredible as that appears, it's thanks to the Christianity that we know the Celtic mythology. Indeed, narratives were lying on the paper by Christian monks in Ireland and in Wales.

On the other hand, for the Gaul, it is necessary to content itself with doubtful testimonies of Greek or Roman authors. In spite of certain difficulties of transmission, we can assert today that the Celtic mythology, regarding symbolism, has to envy nothing the Greek or Roman mythologies. The only texts which reached us, are narratives on the study of the Celtic mythology is the work of some rare writers such Pliny the Elder or Strabon. Ireland as for it, it delivered us 4 tales which have to throw some light on the Celtic mythology.

2.3. Texts and characters of the Celtic mythology and the popular culture

Tristan and Iseult: the text most famous is certainly "Tristan and Iseult". This immortally love story was adapted to the cinema by Jean Cocteau, Ridley Scott, to the literature, for example Bérroul, to the opera by immense Richard Wagner known for its famous "agreement (=accord) of Tristan" but still represent in other arts like the textile or the painting. The story: Tristan and Iseult live a forbidden love. Forbidden because Iseult is promised to king Marc of Cornouaille, the uncle of Tristan. In spite of certain obstacles, they will live their love as long as it will be possible.

Morrigan: of accesses Celtic character the Goddess. Morrigan is a warrior. She moves on battlefields on a tank guided by a red horse which has only a single leg. She can appear penny

train forms human but also as crow or three crows. In "The Lord of the Rings", the character Galadriel would be inspired by Morrigan. She is also a member of the work of the American artist Judy Chicago "The Dinner Party", his name is on the base of the work.

John Ronald Reul Tolkien : For its books "or still "The Hobbit", Tolkien is inspired a great deal of fairy tales," as Beowulf "and" Eddas ". On the other hand, the idea of the unique Ring comes from a German legend which is present in the cycle of Nibelungen (resumed by Wagner in his tetralogy).

Beowulf : Epic poem by which Tolkien was enormously inspired. He pulls his origins towards half of the VIIth century. This poem tells the epic exploits of the hero Beowulf. Having won several battles and being a monarch. He is killed during an ultimate fight with a dragon (resemblance here with "The Hobbit").

Thor : God of the thunder, he is one of main gods in the Celtic pantheon. Considered as the strongest one of all. He symbolizes strength, victory, ... His famous attribute is the hammer Mjöllnir with whom it creates the lightning. Thor is now a super-hero of the comics of Marvel.

3. Celtic music

The idea of the Celtic music appeared towards the 19th century by Théodore Hersat de La Villemarqué by the publication of "Barzaz Breiz" (compilation of songs). The folk movement towards the 20th century by Alan Stivelli, will make Celtic music, a success around the world. In reality, there is no Celtic music, it is the groups and thanks to their success that the idea of "Celtic music" entered our collective unconscious.

4. Conclusion

These tales and legends have all the time revisited by the Man, thus it is difficult to know exactly the legends of each of its divinities. Others part, these legends are wonderful sources of inspiration; see the works of Tolkien.